

6 updated at a rate dependent on the network connections speeds and loads and client computing  
7 speeds and loads, and wherein the conference server is capable of transmitting said shared  
8 portion of said display to two or more clients in parallel

1 2. (Twice Amended) A conferencing system comprising:  
2 at least one client;  
3 a conference server;  
4 network connections between the conference server and the at least one client,  
5 wherein the at least one client maintains a version of a shared portion of a data set which is  
6 updated at a rate dependent on the network connections speeds and loads and client computing  
7 speeds and loads, and wherein the conference server is capable of transmitting said shared  
8 portion of said data set to two or more clients in parallel.

1 ~~3-23~~ A conferencing system according to claim 2, further comprising:  
2 a presenter;  
3 wherein the network connections connect the presenter to the conference server;  
4 wherein the presenter provides the most current version of the shared portion of  
5 the data set;  
6 wherein the version of the shared portion of the data set maintained by each  
7 client is periodically updated with data updates; and  
8 wherein the data updates are created from the most current version of the shared  
9 portion of the data set provided by the presenter.

1 24. A conferencing system according to claim 23, wherein the data updates  
2 are delivered to each client at a rate dependent on the network connections speeds and loads  
3 and client computing speeds and loads.

1 ~~5~~ <sup>3</sup> 25. A conferencing system according to claim ~~23~~, wherein each of the data  
2 updates is made up of at least one data block.

1 ~~6~~ <sup>5</sup> 26. A conferencing system according to claim ~~25~~, wherein the at least one  
2 data block is capable of being represented as a checksum, a delta block or a base block.

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2 ~~sub E37~~ 27. A conferencing system according to claim 23, further comprising:  
3 a transcoder for transforming the data updates between a first format and a  
second format.

1 8 28. A conferencing system according to claim 27, wherein the first format is  
2 a device-independent format and the second format is a device-dependent format.

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2 ~~sub E4~~ 29. A conferencing system according to claim 27, wherein the transcoder is  
3 capable of being located on the at least one client, the conference server and the presenter; and  
4 wherein the transcoder is actuatable depending on the network connections speeds  
5 and loads, client computing speeds and loads, conference server computing speeds and loads  
and presenter computing speeds and loads.

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2 ~~B2~~ 30. A conferencing system according to claim 23, further comprising:  
3 a compression mechanism for compressing the data updates;  
4 wherein the compression mechanism is capable of being located on the  
conference server or the presenter or both; and  
5 wherein the compression mechanism is actuatable depending on the network  
6 connections speeds and loads, client computing speeds and loads, conference server computing  
7 speeds and loads and presenter computing speeds and loads.

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2 31. A conferencing system according to claim 30, further comprising:  
a decompression mechanism for decompressing compressed data updates.

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2 32. A conferencing system according to claim 23, wherein the conference  
3 server is capable of delivering the data updates in an output data type selected from base  
4 uncompressed data, based compressed data, differenced uncompressed data and differenced  
5 compressed data, and wherein the output data type is selected based on the network  
6 connections speeds and loads, conference server computing speeds and loads, and client  
computing speeds and loads.

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2 33. A conferencing client-server system according to claim 17, wherein the  
flow of conference data to each node is delivered in an output data type selected from base

3 uncompressed data, base compressed data, differenced uncompressed data and differenced  
4 compressed data; and wherein the output data type is selected based on the computing  
5 resources available at the node and the bandwidth and resources available on the network  
6 portion connecting the node.

1 34. A conferencing client-server system according to claim 17, further  
2 comprising:

3 a transcoder for transforming the flow of conference data between a first format  
4 and a second format, the transcoder being actuable for each node to accommodate the  
5 computing resources available at the node and the bandwidth and resources available on the  
6 network portion connecting the node.

1 35. A conferencing client-server system according to claim 34, wherein the  
2 first format is a device-independent format and the second format is a device-dependent  
3 format.

1 36. A conferencing client-server system according to claim 17, further  
2 comprising:

3 a compression mechanism for compressing the flow of conference data to each  
4 of the plurality of nodes, the compression mechanism being actuable based on the computing  
5 resources available at the node and the bandwidth and resources available on the network  
6 portion connecting the node.

1 37. A conferencing client-server system according to claim 36, further  
2 comprising:

3 a decompression mechanism for decompressing compressed flow of conference  
4 data received at each of the plurality of nodes.--